

ORDINANCE NO. 20120802-060

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 12-4-64(D) OF THE CITY CODE TO ADD A PORTION OF PEACEFUL HILL LANE TO THE LIST OF STREETS HAVING A MAXIMUM SPEED LIMIT OF 20 MPH AT CERTAIN TIMES FOR STUDENTS ATTENDING WILLIAMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL; AND TO PROVIDE FOR EMERGENCY PASSAGE.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

PART 1. Section 12-4-64(D) (*Table of Speed Limits*) is amended to add:

Peaceful Hill Lane from 220 feet north of Baldrige Drive to 235 feet south of Baldrige Drive (20 MPH Speed Limit School Zone) (Williams Elementary School).

PART 2. The amendment made in this ordinance is based on the results of a traffic engineering investigation, or "speed study," attached as Exhibit "A".

PART 3. The amendment made in this ordinance shall be incorporated in alphabetical order and the existing entries reordered accordingly.

PART 4. Council finds that school will soon be in session, and the need for a school zone at this site constitutes an emergency. Because of this emergency, this ordinance takes effect immediately on its passage for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety.

PASSED AND APPROVED

August 2, 2012

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Lee Leffingwell

Mayor

APPROVED:



Karen M. Kennard
City Attorney

ATTEST:



Shirley A. Gentry

City Clerk



MEMORANDUM

To: Traffic Study Files

From: Eric Bollich, P.E., PTOE
South Area Supervisor
Traffic Engineering Division
Austin Transportation Department

E. Bollich
6/26/12

Date: June 26, 2012

Subject: Reduced Speed School Zone Investigation

Location: Peaceful Hill Lane

Date(s) of Previous Investigation: None

A traffic engineering investigation has been conducted to determine if a reduced speed school zone should be installed on Peaceful Hill Lane near Baldridge Drive (the "study intersection") for students attending Williams Elementary School.

Austin Independent School District School (AISD) is discontinuing bus service serving students south of the school beginning with the 2012-2013 school year; therefore, pedestrians living in the Parkridge Gardens Neighborhood east of Peaceful Hill Lane will be required to cross this street if they choose to walk or bicycle between home and school. Figure 1 presents a map of the study area.

The following information was collected and analyzed for this determination.

Proximity of the School Crossing to the School

The proposed school crossing at the study intersection is located approximately 1,000 feet south of Williams Elementary School. The adjacent land uses are primarily residential as the Beacon Ridge and Parkridge Gardens Neighborhoods abut Peaceful Hill Lane. A sheet metal shop is also adjacent to Peaceful Hill Lane.

Pedestrian Count

Because the 2012-2013 school year has not begun, no students have been counted crossing Peaceful Hill Lane. Pedestrians from the Parkridge Gardens Neighborhood are expected to cross as a result of the discontinued bus service.

Existing Roadway Conditions

Location	Type of Controls	ADT Two Way	Posted Speed Limit	Street Width
Peaceful Hill Ln	Uncontrolled	1,141	30 MPH	30 feet
Baldrige Dr	Stop	< 1,000	30 MPH	30 feet

Presence of Adult Crossing Guard or Student Safety Patrol

The City’s Child Safety Program has committed an adult crossing guard at this intersection if a school zone is established. No guard or patrol currently works this crossing.

Crash History

Austin Police Department’s crash database was culled for crashes near the study intersection between June 2011 and June 2012. None were reported during this time period.

Sight Distance

Unobstructed sight distance is approximately 200 feet south of Baldrige Drive. Sight distance is virtually unlimited north of Baldrige Drive.

Sidewalks and Ramps

Sidewalk is along the entirety of the west curb of Peaceful Hill Lane between Ralph Ablanedo Drive and Dittmar Road. Along the east curb of Peaceful Hill Lane, a sidewalk extends between Baldrige Drive and 200 feet south of the study intersection. At that point, the sidewalk connects to a path accessing the Parkridge Gardens Neighborhood. Ramps are located on the southwest, northwest, and northeast corners of the study intersection. Pedestrians would use the path from Parkridge Gardens Neighborhood to the sidewalk along the east side of Peaceful Hill Lane and cross the north leg of the study intersection to access school.

Recommendation

Based on the analysis of this information, it is my engineering judgment that a reduced speed school zone of 20 miles per hour be installed on Peaceful Hill Lane from 220 feet north of Baldrige Drive to 235 feet south of Baldrige Drive and operate between 7:00 AM and 8:00 AM and 2:30 PM and 3:30 PM.